

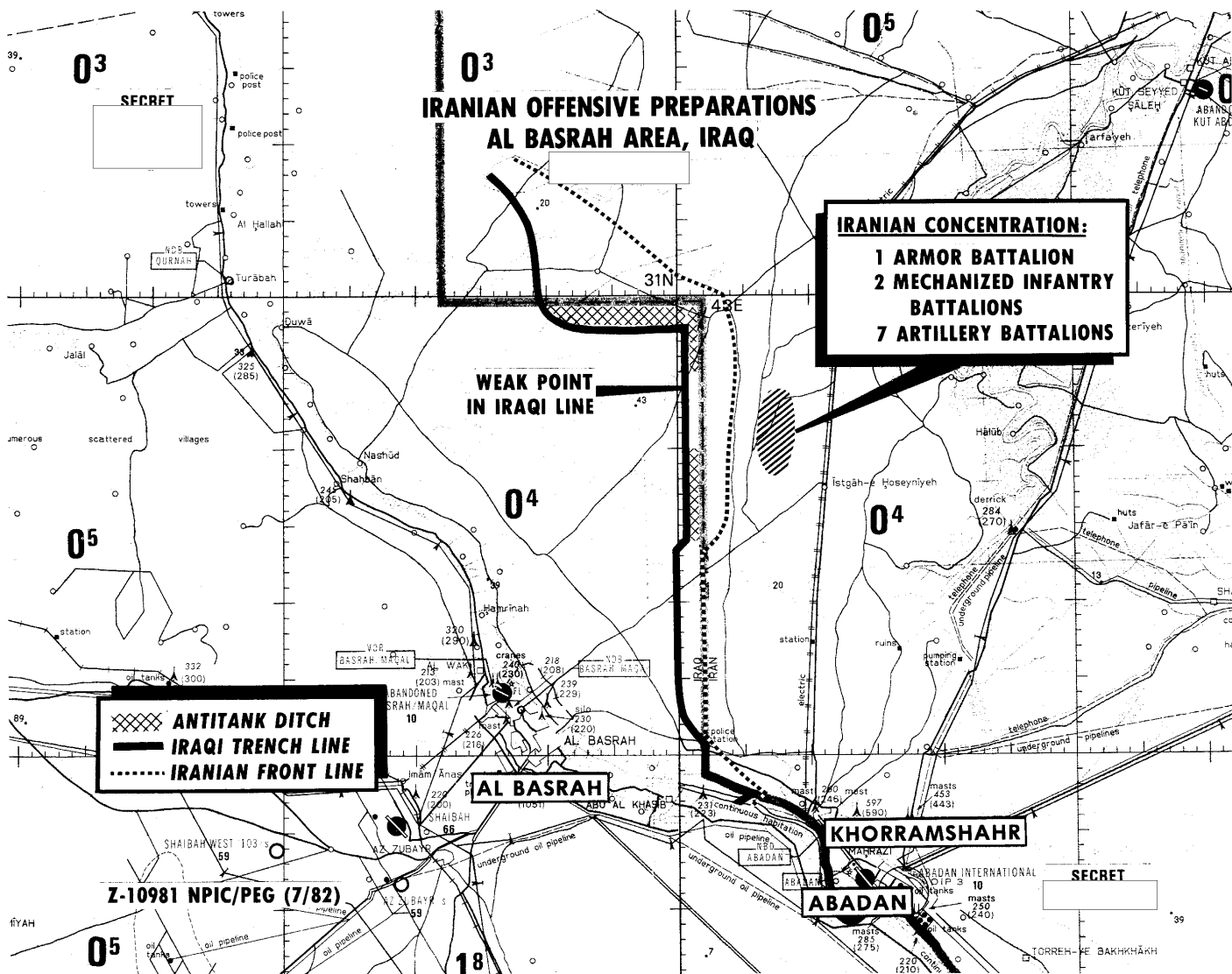
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IRANIAN OFFENSIVE PREPARATIONS
AL BASRAH AREA, IRAQ

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1. (S/D) **SIGNIFICANCE:** PREPARATIONS FOR AN IRANIAN OFFENSIVE INTO IRAQ IN THE SOUTHERN BORDER AREA CONTINUE.
2. (S/D) **REMARKS:** IRANIAN ARTILLERY, AND MECHANIZED INFANTRY AND ARMOR MOBILE RESERVES ARE CONCENTRATED ALONG THE BORDER IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF THE KHORRAMSHAHR FRONT OPPOSITE ONE OF THE WEAKEST POINTS IN THE IRAQI DEFENSIVE NETWORK. AN IRANIAN BREAKTHROUGH IN THIS SECTOR WOULD THREATEN IRAQ'S MILITARY POSITION EAST OF AL BASRAH.

(S/D) AT LEAST SEVEN IRANIAN BATTALIONS OF TOWED AND SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED NEAR 30-52N 048-08E. ONE OF THESE BATTALIONS HAS ARRIVED

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IRANIAN MOBILE RESERVES, INCLUDING MAJOR ELEMENTS OF AT LEAST ONE ARMOR BATTALION AND TWO MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALIONS, ARE DEPLOYED IN THE REAR AREAS ON THE FLANKS OF THIS CONCENTRATION.

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(S/D) THE IRAQIS HAVE PREPARED EXTENSIVE IN DEPTH DEFENSIVE FORTIFICATIONS CONSISTING OF CONTINUOUS INTERCONNECTED LINES OF ENTRENCHED INFANTRY, AND REVETTED AND BUNKERED STRONGPOINTS. IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR, AN ANTITANK DITCH HAS BEEN DUG ALONG MOST OF THE FRONT. IRAQI MECHANIZED INFANTRY OCCUPY OR SUPPORT THESE FRONT LINE DEFENSES. IRAQI MOBILE RESERVES, CONSISTING OF ELEMENTS OF AT LEAST THREE ARMORED OR MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADES, ARE DEPLOYED BY BATTALION FROM 1 TO 2 NM BEHIND THE FRONT.

(S/D) A LIGHTLY DEFENDED GAP IS OPPOSITE THE IRANIAN CONCENTRATION. THE DEFENSES CONSIST OF ONLY A SINGLE LINE OF ENTRENCHED INFANTRY. THE ANTITANK DITCH IN THIS AREA HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED, AND ONLY ONE STRONGPOINT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED NEAR THE FRONT LINE. NO IRAQI ARMORED OR MECHANIZED UNITS ARE IN THIS PART OF THE DEFENSIVE LINE.

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3. BE N/A, COORDINATES N/A

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